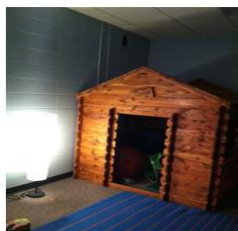


Sensory Room Success



William F. Loper Elementary is Making it Happen!



OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Loper uses their sensory room to give the most at-risk and sensory seeking students' time to get their day started right! After noticing a trend in behavior referrals a group of students were identified to attend a daily, morning "club" to help them manage emotions and set them up for success. Christina Bradburn, Loper SLP, along with the support of the entire staff and administration, developed the sensory room they now call "The Sandlot". Students use the space to transition into "school mode" and prepare for the day ahead. This is a proactive approach to support students with repetitive behaviors in the classroom. The students come to the room first thing in the morning as a transition from home to school. They simply use the room as they need with adult support and guidance. Students may rebound on a mini-trampoline, spin in an egg chair, relax in the cabin, bounce on therapy balls, play marbles, or build with Legos. Additionally, some of our students may use this time to finish homework from the night before or to eat breakfast with their peers. The space is utilized by many staff members throughout the day. Principal, Brent Baker can often be found in "The Sandlot" with a student that needs a sensory break during the school day. The sensory room has allowed teacher, administrators, and therapists a safe place to help our students learn and grow socially and emotionally each and every day!

OUR STEPS

With the support of our central office and building level administration we have come a long way in creating this valuable space. The first step was to create a safe place to house the sensory area. A room was built in the back of the library this past summer and "The Sandlot" took on a whole new life. Our PTO generously purchased the therapy tools and furniture that make the space so beneficial. We have also received donations of games and books from our staff members. We will continue to utilize this space on a daily basis to give students the ability to learn social skills and receive therapies within their natural environment.

WE ARE

The Loper Bulldogs! We are one of 3 elementary schools in Shelbyville Central School Corporation located in Shelby County.

STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Our school population consists of 692 students from pre-school to 5th grade. We have 50% of our students that receive free or reduced lunch, 6.8 % English Language Learners, and 14.6% Special Education Students. We believe that our families are our most critical partner as we work together to meet the academic and emotional needs of our students.

OUR TEACHERS

Loper has 40 teachers that have all had professional development on meeting the behavioral needs of their students and how it connects to their well-being.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

"Coming to The Sandlot helps me to concentrate because I get to play before I go do my work." – Conner, 4th grade

"I like that I get to come to The Sandlot to spin." – Adam, 1st grade



"This space allows our kids to feel a little victory each day. They learn what it means to be successful and start to seek out the same success during other parts of their day. They come here to vent, cry, argue, jump, spin, play, or just be; then they can hit the reset button and have a fresh start for their day." – Christina Bradburn, SLP